



## RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### OWTS Program Guidance for Repairs in Critical Erosion Areas

**Structure damage evaluations are made by the local building official. Based on the results of this evaluation and the damage to the OWTS serving the structure, choose the appropriate scenario:**

#### **Scenario #1**

Structure Damage: **0-50%**

OWTS Damage: **Only At-grade or Above-Ground Components**

- Maintenance activities on at-grade or above-ground components of existing, permitted systems may be allowed without a repair permit. Maintenance activities include:
  - Repair or replace electrical control panel;
  - Remove sediment from bottomless sand filter; or
  - Repair, re-plumb, or reset at-grade treatment components; or
  - Rebuild filter in-kind and in-place.Submit photos and description of work completed to DEM. Include the site address, owner's name, and original permit number.
- Repairs to existing systems beyond the maintenance activities identified above will require an OWTS Application for Repair.

#### **Scenario #2**

Structure Damage: **0-50%**

OWTS Damage: **Damage to or Displacement of Any Subsurface Components**

- If repairs beyond the maintenance activities described at left are necessary, an OWTS Application for Repair is required. Submit the following information to DEM:
  - Application form and repair plan;
  - Documentation from building official's office that structural damage is  $\leq 50\%$ ; and
  - CRMC confirmation of the location of the actively eroding edge of coastal feature if OWTS is within 200' of water.Repairs must comply with DEM Critical Erosion Area Policy.

**Not all damage to an OWTS is immediately visible. DEM recommends that all OWTS that were inundated by storm surge be inspected by a qualified system inspector.**

#### **Scenario #3**

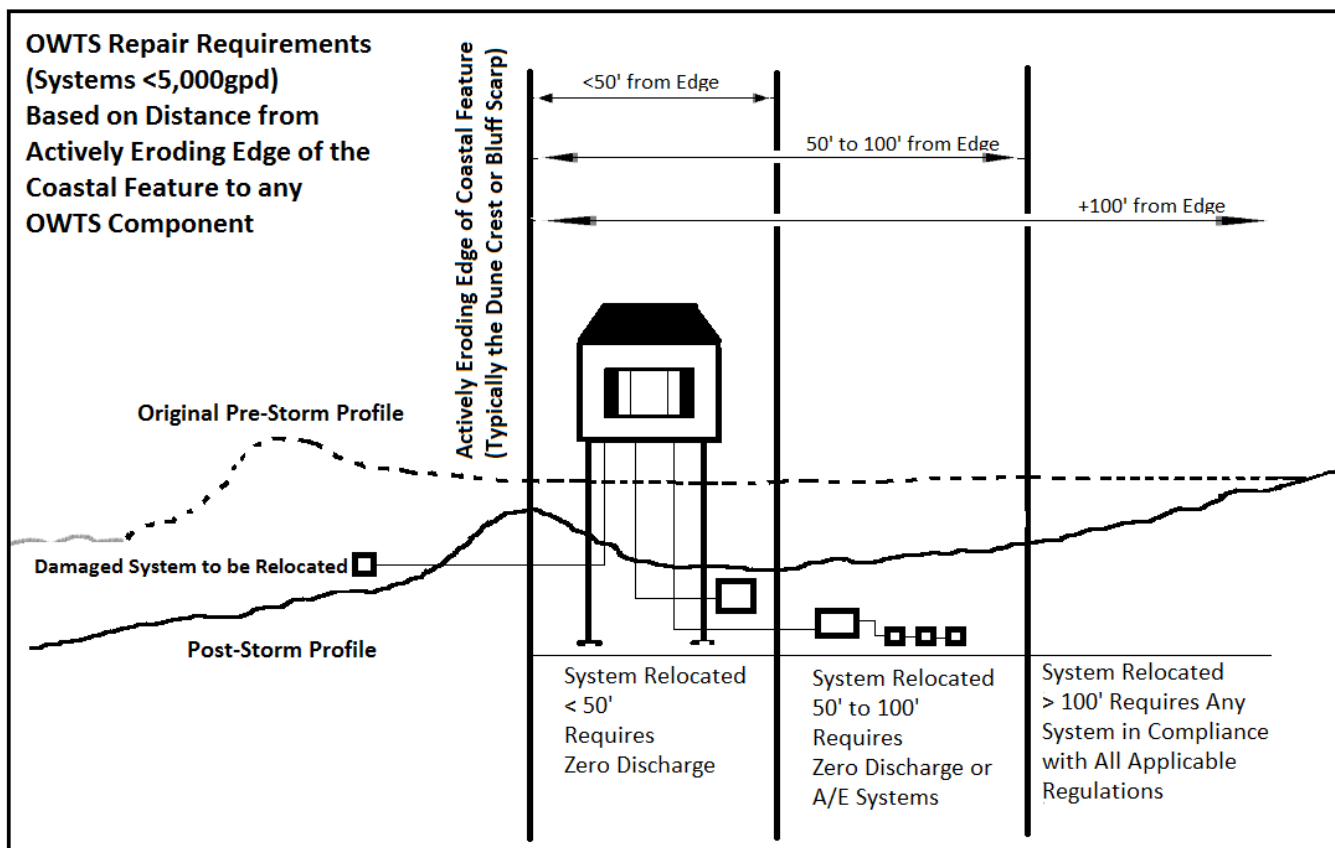
Structure Damage: **>50%**

OWTS Damage: **Damage to or Displacement of Any Components**

- If the structure is damaged >50%, is moved to a different location on the lot, or is lifted above FEMA base flood elevation, an OWTS Application for Alteration to a Structure is required. Submit the following information to DEM:
  - Application form and design plan; and
  - CRMC confirmation of the location of the actively eroding edge of coastal feature if OWTS is within 200' of water.
- Alterations must be submitted by a Class II or Class III Licensed Designer.
- Holding tanks do not require an Environmental Land Use Restriction.
- In some cases an undamaged OWTS will require upgrade if structure is raised or relocated. Submit SSD request.

**If you aren't sure what you need to do, request a System Suitability Determination (SSD) from DEM.** Submit the SSD application (Fee waived if received prior to May 31, 2013) along with the following information:

- Documentation from building official's office that structural damage is  $\leq 50\%$ ;
- CRMC confirmation of the location of the actively eroding edge of coastal feature if OWTS is within 200' of water; and
- Original system permit number if the system was installed with a permit (DEM can help you locate the permit number).



Distance from the Actively Eroding Edge of the Coastal Feature to Any OWTS Component	OWTS Requirement for systems <5000 gpd
Less than or equal to 50 feet	Zero Discharge System required.
Between 50 and 100 feet	Zero Discharge System <b>or</b> an approved Alternative/Experimental (A/E) system.
Beyond 100 feet	Any system that fully complies with all applicable regulations (DEM, CRMC, zoning, etc.).

Reference: OWTS Guidance for Repairs in Critical Erosion Areas (Updated November 28, 2012)  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/isds/pdfs/coastrpr.pdf>

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